

## **CALIFORNIA DELTA SCIENCE PROGRAM SEEKS SCIENTIFIC LEAD**

The U.S. Geological Survey and the California Delta Stewardship Council are seeking an internationally recognized aquatic or ecosystem scientist to become the Lead Scientist of the Delta Science Program.

**THE PROJECT:** The Delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers in California, 2800 km<sup>2</sup> in area, represents one of the largest and most significant water and environmental management projects in the world. The Delta is the hub of California's water system, serving 25 million people, and the engine of California's economy, the 8<sup>th</sup> largest in the world. The Delta is also home to more than 700 important native species, 31 of which are listed under the U.S. or California endangered species acts. Some of California's fastest growing urban areas are at the margins of the Delta while the Delta itself supports significant agriculture and recreation. In 2009, the California legislature adopted the [Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta Reform Act](#), which established providing a reliable water supply and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem as coequal goals for managing the Delta. The Act created the Delta Stewardship Council to develop and implement the Delta Plan to achieve these coequal goals. The Act also established the Delta Science Program and the Delta Independent Science Board to be the Council's scientific arms, tasked with ensuring that the Council has access to the best scientific information available to support its planning and management initiatives.

**THE POSITION:** The Lead Scientist leads the Delta Science Program and is the principal liaison between the Science Program, the Independent Science Board and the Delta Stewardship Council. The Lead Scientist works with the Independent Science Board and the Delta Stewardship Council to develop the science agenda for the Delta that will support the Delta Plan. The Lead Scientist:

- Maintains an independent voice for science in the Delta.
- Oversees a program of research grants and fellowships.
- Briefs the Council as well as other senior state and federal staff and legislators on scientific issues.
- Prepares scientific papers and reports.
- Synthesizes and summarizes research.
- Oversees the independent scientific review of federal and state agency activities in the Delta.
- Motivates and advises staff.

An important aspect of the job includes developing, leading and sustaining dialogues and public discussions of technical issues among the stakeholder community, managers and directors of implementing agencies, and academic researchers. The Lead Scientist oversees an approximately \$5-10 million/year program with 12 state and 2 federal positions.

**THE INDIVIDUAL:** The successful candidate will hold an advanced degree in a field related to water or ecosystem science and at least 10 years experience as a practicing academic or scientist. This individual will have a proven track record of project management involving five or more other professionals with varying expertise. This individual will have a strong record of scientific research and publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals. This individual will also have demonstrated experience advising high-level managers in science-based decision-making and will have the capability to guide the application of an adaptive management process to resource management policy decisions in the Delta.

**THE APPOINTMENT:** The Lead Scientist is secured through a multi-year appointment with the U.S. Geological Survey with a salary range of \$121,000 - \$155,000. The appointment can be either (1) an assignment to the USGS from any public, university or non-profit institution via the Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program; or (2) a USGS position (job #PAC-2011-0405) applied for through USA JOBS ([www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)). Applications will be accepted through 6/17/2011. There may be a possibility of an adjunct appointment at the University of California, Davis. The Lead Scientist will work out of the Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Science Program office in Sacramento, California. For more information on the Delta Science Program go to: <http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program>

For more information on how to apply, contact Michelle Shouse ([mkshouse@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:mkshouse@deltacouncil.ca.gov)).